

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A word puzzle game comprising:

a diagramless crossword puzzle grid of blank answer spaces for entering answers to crossword puzzle clues ~~at least a first answer to a first puzzle clue in a first space and a second answer to a second puzzle clue in a second space~~the diagramless crossword puzzle grid being free of any black spacer squares within the grid that are between the blank answer spaces; and

a reference mark-image including portions within each of four quadrants of the grid for facilitating visual identification of symmetric locations in the grid, the reference image being rotationally symmetric about a midpoint of the grid such that the image is unchanged if rotated 180° relative to the midpoint, each portion of the image within a given square and quadrant thereby corresponding to another, identical portion of the image in another square located in another quadrant at a rotationally symmetric location in the grid such that the image can be used to visually relate symmetric grid locations for entering the answers in a symmetric fashion~~relating a location of the first space in the diagramless grid of blank answer spaces to a location of the second space in the diagramless grid of blank answer spaces.~~

2.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The word puzzle game as recited in ~~Claim 5~~Claim 1, wherein each portion and the corresponding identical portion of the image are the~~the location of the first space and the symmetric location of the second space correspond to a same color in the symmetric pattern.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The word puzzle game as recited in ~~Claim 4~~Claim 1, wherein ~~the symmetric pattern includes a first colored shape and a second, same colored shape, and a location of the first colored shape in the diagramless grid of blank spaces is rotationally symmetric with respect to the midpoint to a location of the second,~~ each portion and the corresponding identical portion of the image are the same colored shape in the diagramless grid of blank spaces.

8. (Currently Amended) The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, ~~wherein the reference mark includes symmetric~~further comprising symmetric coordinates outside of the grid that indicate grid coordinates for at least a portion of the ~~diagramless grid of blank answer spaces, and the grid coordinates of the first space correspond to the grid coordinates of the second space.~~

9. (Original) The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 8, wherein the symmetric coordinates include at least one of a symbol, color, number, and letter.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The word puzzle game as recited in Claim 1, including a gaming surface for displaying the diagramless grid of blank answer spaces and the reference ~~mark~~image, the gaming surface comprising at least one of an electronic screen, erasable surface, inlaid surface, or printed surface.

12.-22. (Cancelled)